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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-05 TRSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 11682

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EC, CY
SUBJ: TURKISH CYPRIOT DISCUSSIONS WITH EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 6296, (B) BRUSSELS 5599

1. SUMMARY: TURKISH CYPRIOT DELEGATION MET WITH EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS LAST WEEK TO TRY TO ENSURE THAT TURKISH CYPRIOTS WILL GAIN SOME BENEFIT FROM RECENTLY-CONCLUDED EC-CYPRUS TRADE/FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. EC COMMISSION DESK OFFICER FOR CYPRUS TOLD MISSION OFFICER SEPTEMBER 9 THAT TURKISH CYPRIOT DELEGATION, ASSISTED BY TURKISH MISSION TO EC, HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH COMMISSION WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS SEPTEMBER 7-9. TURKISH CYPRIOT DELEGATION'S LEADER WAS SAID TO BE ONE
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"TATAR" (PHONETIC), A SENIOR OFFICIAL IN THE TFSC'S "TRADE MINISTRY."

3. COMMISSION OFFICIAL SAID TURKISH CYPRIOTS' ANNOYANCE AT COMMUNITY'S RECENT NEGOTIATION WITH THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT (GOC) OF TRADING ARRANGEMENTS AND A NEW FINANCIAL PROTOCOL (AGREEMENTS REACHED--REF A--ARE SCHEDULED TO BE

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FORMALLY SIGNED AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL SEPTEMBER 15) HAD CAUSED TURKISH CYPRIOTS NOT TO APPEAR FOR MEETINGS AT THE COMMISSION SCHEDULED FOR JUNE/JULY TO DISCUSS EC INTENTIONS RE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENTS. HOWEVER, THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN SCHEDULING THE SEPTEMBER 7-9 MEETINGS. ACCORDING TO COMMISSION OFFICIALS, THE MAIN ITEMS DISCUSSED WERE: (A) COMMUNITY PROPOSALS FOR ENSURING THAT DESPITE RULES OF ORIGIN ARRANGEMENTS NEGOTIATED WITH THE GOC, TURKISH CYPRIOT PRODUCTS WILL NOT BE KEPT OUT OF EC MARKETS, AND (B) TURKISH CYPRIOT CONCERN THAT THE TURKISH SECTOR GET A SUBSTANTIAL SHARE OF THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE EAR-MARKED FOR CYPRUS UNDER THE EC-GOC FINANCIAL PROTOCOL. COMMISSION OFFICIAL SAID THAT TO MOLLIFY THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS ON THE SECOND POINT, AND, IN EFFECT, TO BUY TIME, THE COMMISSION ASKED TURKISH CYPRIOTS TO PROVIDE IN THE MONTHS AHEAD DATA AND IDEAS ON VIABLE ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN THE TURKISH SECTOR. COMMISSION ALSO PROMISED THAT SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE COMMISSION OFFICIALS MIGHT BE ABLE TO VISIT THE TURKISH SECTOR TO ASSESS ASSISTANCE NEEDS.

4. COMMISSION OFFICIAL SAID THAT IN SEPTEMBER 7-9 MEETINGS TURKISH CYPRIOTS GAVE CLEAR EVIDENCE OF WISHING TO STEP UP TFSC'S "INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS." IN COURSE OF OPENING STATEMENT "TATAR" SAID TURKISH CYPRIOTS THINK IT "MAY BECOME NECESSARY" TO OPEN A BRUSSELS OFFICE.
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(WE UNDERSTAND THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS ALMOST DID SO IN LATE 1974 BUT THAT, AT THE LAST MINUTE, THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT VETOED THE IDEA.) COMMISSION OFFICIAL SAID HE THINKS IT LIKELY COMMISSION WORKING LEVEL AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS WILL MEET EVERY TWO OR THREE MONTHS IN THE FUTURE, SINCE SEVERAL EC MEMBER COUNTRIES THINK IT IMPORTANT TO KEEP LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN TO TURKISH CYPRIOTS (AND, OF COURSE, TO KEEP ANKARA MOLLIFIED). COMMISSION OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT EC'S TIGHTROPE ACT IS DIFFICULT: "WE HAVE TO DO AND SAY JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS FROM GETTING REALLY ANGRY, WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING THAT WOULD ERODE OUR POSITION THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS, WHILE PLAYING FOR TIME AND HOPING THERE WILL BE AN EARLY POLITICAL SETTLEMENT." HINTON

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